

The Hongkong Telegraph

EXPLOSIONS RAIN STEEL ON TEXAS CITY

Disaster Kills Untold Numbers

(BY WILLIAM C. BERNARD)

Texas City, Texas, Apr. 18.

New explosions have sharpened the sorrow and misery of this stricken city, coming as they did 13 hours after two blasts took hundreds of lives and injured thousands. The twin explosions which looked like a giant skyrocket, further stunned and dazed the weary citizens.

At dawn searchlights still probed the crumpled steel and debris that covers uncounted bodies.

A blanket of black, billowing smoke covers the city heavier than ever as a result of new oil refinery fires caused by the newest explosions on the vessel High Flyer.

Just after 1 a.m., I walked into a store building where the casualty toll is being tabulated. I closed the door, walked to the centre of the room and a terrific explosion shook the building, bringing plaster from the ceiling.

Two seconds later a second explosion came with a thunderous blast.

I yanked open the door and plunged outside into a vacant lot. There I watched red-hot steel streaming into the sky.

A fiery black cloud climbed 2,000 feet then steel fragments plinged on the sidewalk and pavement.

In the dock area jagged pieces fell like rain.

LEG CUT OFF

W. H. Boucher, a volunteer helper in the dock area reported: "The blast blew the buttons off my jacket. A piece of shrapnel cut the leg off a man standing beside me. A Red Cross nurse helped me fix a tourniquet. Her head was bleeding but she didn't pay any attention to herself."

"The man was conscious but didn't say a word, didn't even moan. I stayed with him until they brought up a stretcher and carried him off."

Fifty seconds after the second blast occurred rescue work got under way again as the workers streamed back into the area.

One of the workers Mrs. Clay Martin, 38, of Houston, Texas, circulated among the patients working in spite of eight broken ribs.

All day long she had been in the dock area distributing coffee and sandwiches and treating inflamed eyes of firemen burned by the smoke and gasses.

"It rained steel out there," she said. "It was awful. I was lucky to get out with just broken ribs."

KNOWN CASUALTIES

New York, Apr. 17.

More than 700 persons are now known to be dead and 3,000 injured in Texas City where new explosions today sent dead inhabitants streaming out in search of safety.

Red Cross officials think it is possible that the death toll will never be known exactly as many of the victims were blown to pieces and some of the port workers destroyed by explosions were migratory.

More teams of trained rescue workers are being flown into the city. Oil tanks are still burning and a cargo ship which had been in danger of catching fire has been cut loose from its pier.

President Truman today asked all United States Government agencies to help in relief work.

Red Cross Headquarters in Washington reported tonight that the number of known dead in Texas City was now learned to be 714 and more than 3,000 counted injured.

The explosion today of the United States freighter High Flyer was described by some people as even greater than yesterday's blasts. It was felt as far as Baton Rouge, Louisiana, over 400 miles away, according to reports.

INQUIRY DEMAND

A Washington telegram said that Senator Lee O'Daniel, Democrat of Texas, today introduced a resolution to the United States Senate calling for immediate Congressional investigation into the disaster.

"I realise the explosions could have been accidental and I do not want to charge or insinuate that anybody could have been so mean or debased as to have planned and executed this disaster," the Senator said. "But in view of the high tension in international affairs and due to the rather large number of fires, explosions, railway wrecks and other disastrous occurrences in the nation lately, all so nearly resembling the disastrous occurrences which preceded our entry into the last war—due largely to Communist underground activity—I believe it is the duty of this Senate to conduct a full and complete investigation into the Texas City disaster." Senator O'Daniel said.

Earlier reports to the Red Cross Headquarters in Washington said that all tanks were still burning and one cargo ship in danger of catching fire had been cut loose from its pier. Ninety per cent of all buildings in the city had been damaged and the central section of the town completely blasted.

In a telegram to the Mayor of Texas City, President Truman said: "I know the Red Cross is ministering to your stricken city and I have

Death Sentence Commuted

Rape & Murder Charges Reduced

Washington, Apr. 18.

President Harry Truman today commuted the sentence of private Leo W. Christensen, who was court-martialed in Japan on charges of rape, murder and assault, to three years imprisonment and dishonourable discharge.

The War Department said Christensen also forfeits all pay allowances.

Christensen was convicted of killing a Japanese boy with his motorcycle, raping a Japanese woman and assaulting a Japanese man with his fists.

He was originally sentenced to death.

Major General James Lester, commanding the 24th Division reduced his sentence to life imprisonment.

Presidential action further reduced the rape charge to assault and battery.

Senator Glen H. Taylor, Republican of Idaho—Christensen's home state—said "while I am happy that the threat of death is removed from Christensen, I still feel he was a victim of injustice."

"He never had a fair trial and on the basis of the record before it, the army has no right to keep him in jail or give him a dishonourable discharge."

"He should be given a complete exoneration or a new trial," Associated Press.

asked every Government Agency to cooperate in relief activity. My heart and the heart of the nation go out in deepest sympathy to the suffering people of Texas City. May God lighten the burden of sorrow which has fallen on the community with such tragic force."—Reuter.



Rabbi's Protest Over Gruner Execution

Jerusalem, Apr. 17.

The Palestine Chief Rabbi, Dr Isaac Herzog, in a statement today on the execution of Dov Gruner and three other Jewish terrorists in Acre prison yesterday, said: "The action of the British authorities will be generally declared highly reprehensible. These four Jews were deprived of the elementary rights of every human being in such tragic circumstances to have the comforts of his religious faith administered to him before the thread of his life is snapped asunder."

The Rabbi's statement was made in refusing the resignation offered him by Rabbi Jacob Goldman, formerly of Rochester, New York State, as Chaplain to Prisons in the Holy Land in protest "against the failure of the Palestine Government to notify me of the impending executions."

The Palestine Government stated earlier that a Jewish chaplain, who was asked, refused to be present at the executions. Jewish religious leaders said that the man described as chaplain is a lay reader with no official religious standing.

The spokesman of the Jewish Agency tonight declared that the executions were "not a blow against terrorists, but against those fighting against terrorism." He added that the "executions came at a time when terrorists were forfeiting such sympathy as they might have had from the public. Now, they have been presented with four martyrs."

COMMENT BANNED

Meanwhile, the Palestine Government press censor today forbade publication in the press of comments on the execution of Dov Gruner and three others made in New York by Mr. Joseph Baldwin, Chairman of the United States Political Action Committee for Palestine, and Senator Gillette, President of the American League for Free Palestine.

The ban, which applied also to the Government-controlled Palestine Broadcasting Service, was made "in the interests of public security in Palestine," an official announcement stated.

Mr. Baldwin had said that the terrorists "died for the freedom of their people."

Senator Gillette was quoted as saying that the executions showed the British had thrown away "any pretence of justice or military honour."—Reuter.

THIRD IMMIGRANT DIES

Jerusalem, Apr. 17.

A young Jew died in hospital today from injuries received when illegal immigrants in the ship Theodore Herzl resisted a Royal Naval boarding party on Sunday.

This was the third Jewish death as the result of the clash, in which the Navy used tear gas after Jews had hurled tin cans and bottles on the boarding party.

Disembarkation of the Theodore Herzl's 2,700 passengers, was completed today when 1,100 sailed for detention camps on Cyprus in three British ferry ships.—Reuter.

Cabinet Changes Announced

PETHICK LAWRENCE RESIGNS

London, Apr. 17.

The resignation of the Secretary of State for India, Lord Pethick Lawrence, was announced tonight. This has necessitated several other ministerial changes, including the replacement of Mr John Hynd, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, by Lord Pakenham.

Lord Pakenham will have the responsibility under the Foreign Minister, Mr Ernest Bevin, in connection with the administration of the British zones of Austria and Germany.

The new Secretary of State for India is Lord the Earl of Listowel, hitherto Postmaster-General, who is now promoted to Cabinet rank.

Lord Inman comes into the Cabinet as Lord Privy Seal, and the previous holder of this office, Mr Arthur Greenwood, is now Minister without Portfolio but he will continue with the same duties as before.

The new Postmaster-General is Mr John Hynd, who has resigned from the Ministry of Pensions and is taken by Mr John Hynd.

The announcement of the Cabinet changes from the Prime Minister's office at No. 10 Downing Street said that the King had accepted the resignation of Lord Pethick Lawrence and had approved the appointment of the new Ministers.

BIGGER CABINET

Both Lord Listowel and Lord Inman—who has resigned from the Chairmanship of the British Broadcasting Corporation—become members of a Cabinet whose total strength is now increased by one. It has been decided that the ministerial responsibility for the British elements of the Control Commission for Germany and the Allied Commission for Austria should henceforth rest with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and that the Control Office for Germany and Austria should be incorporated in the Foreign Office, the announcement from Downing Street said.

Mr. Pethick Lawrence, Financial Secretary to the War Office, will also hold the office of Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for War. In a letter of resignation to the Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, released tonight, Lord Pethick Lawrence, who is 76 years of age, said: (Continued on Page 4)

DEMAND FOR TERRITORY

Moscow, Apr. 17.

Yugo-Slavia today formally demanded the Austrian provinces of Carinthia and US\$100,000,000 in reparations from Austria in a hearing before the Big Four Foreign Ministers.

American officials said privately that the Russian supported the Yugo-Slav demands, "there will be no Austrian treaty."

The demands were placed before the Council at a special morning session. The Yugo-Slav Vice-Premier, Mr Eduard Kardelj, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Stanjko Simic, presented Yugo-Slavia's case.

"Slovene Carinthia should be liberated from German and Austrian domination and reunited with the peoples of the republic of Slovenia within the framework of the Yugo-Slav federation," Mr Kardelj said. He said 120,000 Yugo-Slavs would be transferred back to Yugo-Slavia with such a territorial readjustment.

Mr Simic repeated Mr Kardelj's demands for reparations. American officials said Soviet reaction to the Yugo-Slav demands on Austria was important to the Austrian treaty; if Russia supported Yugo-Slavia's territorial and reparation demands, "there will be no treaty," they declared.—United Press.

Bevin Returning Home Next Week

London, Apr. 17.

A Foreign Office spokesman today said Mr Ernest Bevin and party would leave Moscow by train for London next Tuesday "or shortly thereafter."

The trip by train across Poland and Germany will require four or five days.

The spokesman said that Mr Bevin, before departing, is expected to have another meeting with the Soviet Foreign Minister and other Russian officials to discuss the proposed revision of the present 20-year Anglo-Soviet treaty.

Some of the present differences between the British and the Russians regarding the revised treaty may be of "certain magnitude," the spokesman said.—United Press.

Mother Murders Her Baby Daughter

London, Apr. 17.

A stoical mother of 19 confessed today that she smothered her 11½-months-old daughter in a pile of damp clothes because the baby made her jealous.

Violet May Jenkins, charged with murder, told a London court she guessed she was sorry.

"I miss little Norma now," she said sadly. "I wish she was alive."

Mrs Jenkins said she was married, but admitted that the slain baby did not belong to her soldier husband. A friend, George Gagg, who supposed was the reason for her jealousy.

"George made such a fuss of her, I suppose I was jealous," she said.

Mrs Jenkins described in detail how she wrapped a dressing gown tightly around her crying daughter's head, buried her under a pile of clothes and pressed the clothes down on top of her.

"I could still hear her whimpering, so I covered her head up tighter with the dressing gown and pushed her head to the bottom of the bathtub. I covered her again with dirty clothes, went into the other room and closed the door. Then I went to George's to tea."

Mrs Jenkins' mother said her daughter seemed to think the baby was a bit of a tie at times.

The Judge committed Mrs Jenkins to the Central Criminal Court.—United Press.

BRITISH FLOOD RELIEF FUND

Donations Received

Already acknowledged (per H.K. Telegraph)	\$110,200.05
Far East Shipping Co., Ltd.	100.00
Ng Mann	50.00
S. T. Williamson	1,000.00
Mr and Mrs Lo Koon Kan	100.00
Stewart Bros.	100.00
Miss R. Mow Fung	25.00
Mr and Mrs Fred A. Xavier	200.00
Far East Oxygen & Acetylene Co., Ltd.	100.00
J. G. R. and John Humble	100.00
Mr and Mrs Kopecky	50.00
Arnold Trading Co., Ltd.	1,000.00
H. A. G. K. G. Musicians' Union	100.00
Hon. Mr and Mrs J. B. Griffin	50.00
Starbright Trading Co., Ltd.	25.00
China Coast Traders, Ltd.	200.00
Assessment Dept. Staff	204.00
Export, Ltd.	50.00
Wassiamull Asomull & Co.	500.00
Mr and Mrs John Fleming	200.00
Staff: Farmers, Importers, Exporters, and Builders of the Government	
Wholesale Vegetable Market, Kowloon	2,000.00
Mr and Mrs D. E. Hindmarsh	100.00
Mr and Mrs A. O. O'Brien	25.00
Ault & Wiborg Co. (Far East)	200.00
R.H.	50.00
Mr and Mrs Tsan Yung	250.00
Hongkong Can Co.	100.00
Carter & Sutton	100.00
Chinese Staff, Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd. and Star Ferry Co., Ltd.	2,000.00
	\$127,105.05

Donations should be addressed to the General Manager, South China Morning Post, Morning Post Building, Hongkong. Cheques should be made out to "British Flood Relief Fund." For the purpose of acknowledgment will send a kindly indicate their names in Block Letters.

EDITORIAL

No Safe Landings?

Dr Peng Hsueh-pel, China's Minister of Information, has issued an interestingly militant, but not very tactful statement on the subject of foreign planes flying over Chinese territory. The announcement concerns the incident over the Macao airfield last Sunday when a training machine of the Far East Flying Training School, Ltd., was fired upon by a Chinese machinegun post as it was about to land on Portuguese territory. Dr Peng is either speaking for himself, or he is the mouthpiece of the Nanking Government. It would not be the first time a subordinate Chinese official has taken upon himself the right of expressing an official viewpoint without first obtaining it. On the other hand it is difficult to imagine that the Nanking Government would ever lend itself to such an unreasonably and stupidly provocative attitude. Dr Peng has said that if foreign planes fly over Chinese territory without first being given permission, they will be shot down; not the most graceful gesture from a country which, during the war

years, depended solely on "foreign planes" to keep the Japanese at arm's length, and which, since the war, has relied on the same "foreign" aircraft to maintain its air force. This apart, there is the Chicago Aeronautical Convention of 1944, to which attention has been previously drawn, and to which China was a ready signatory. Its provisions for accommodating third-power aircraft are so obvious that Dr Peng's attitude becomes unsustainable. Dr Peng may feel wholly justified in adopting his threatening and prejudicial tone, but it should be pointed out that Chinese commercial planes are permitted the use of Kai Tak airfield without interference. It would be most unfortunate if it were found necessary to withdraw this privilege because of China's refusal to accede to the rights of aircraft which are recognised in any other part of the world. For the past eight years there has been a lot of "Give" by foreign nations and an equal amount of "Take" by China; surely it is about time Nanking displayed some reciprocity, even if it only means safe and happy landings on a third power airfield?

SHOWING
TO-DAY

QUEEN'S

At 2.30, 5.15,
7.15 & 9.15 p.m.

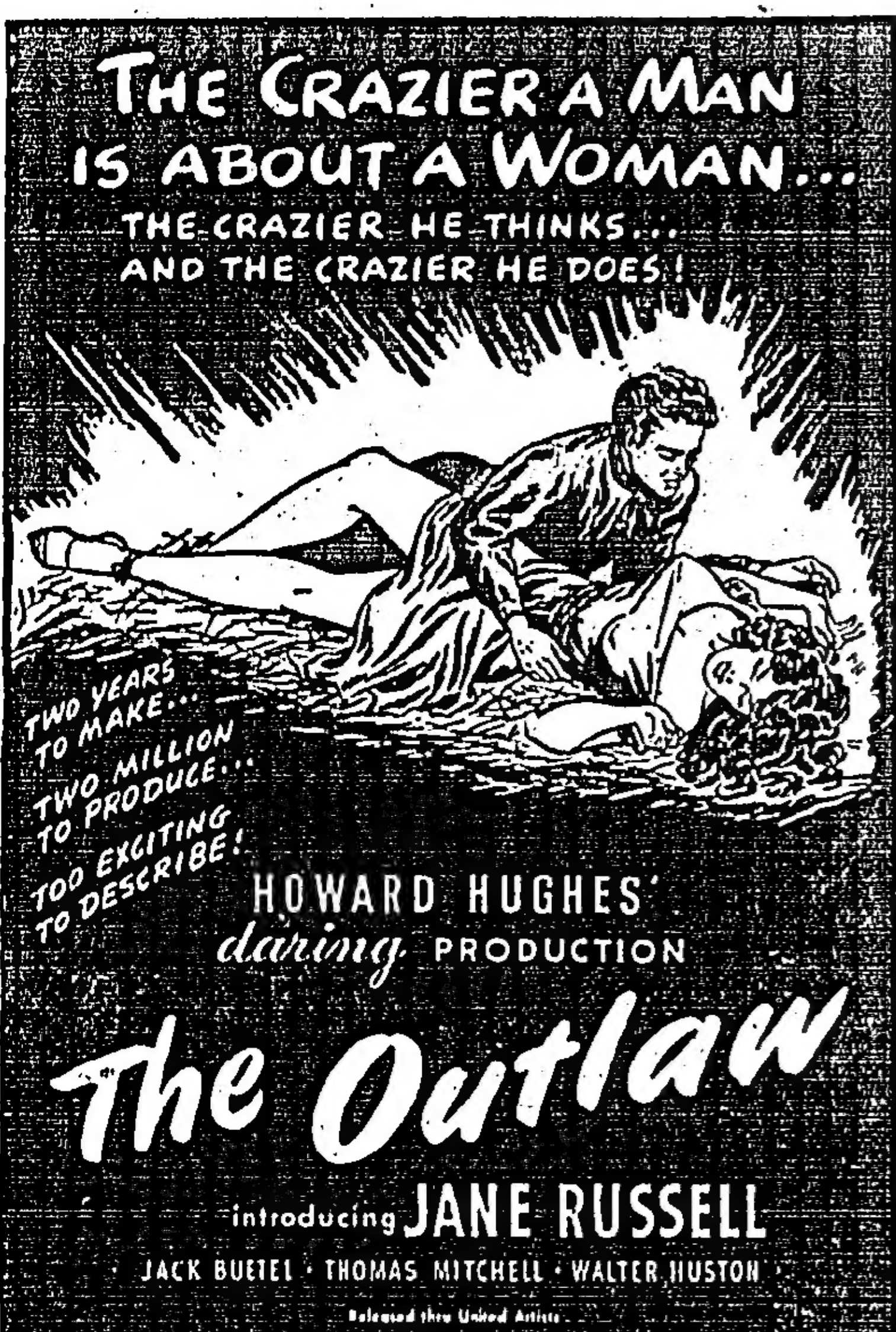
"ATOMIC POWER"

See unbelievable U.S. Army pictures of HIROSHIMA devastation never before released... explore a mysterious new universe with the very men who found the key to it!

LEE THEATRE

TOWN BOOKING OFFICE
W. HAKING & CO., ALEXANDRIA BLDG., GR. FL.
BETWEEN 11.00 A.M. AND 6.00 P.M. DAILY

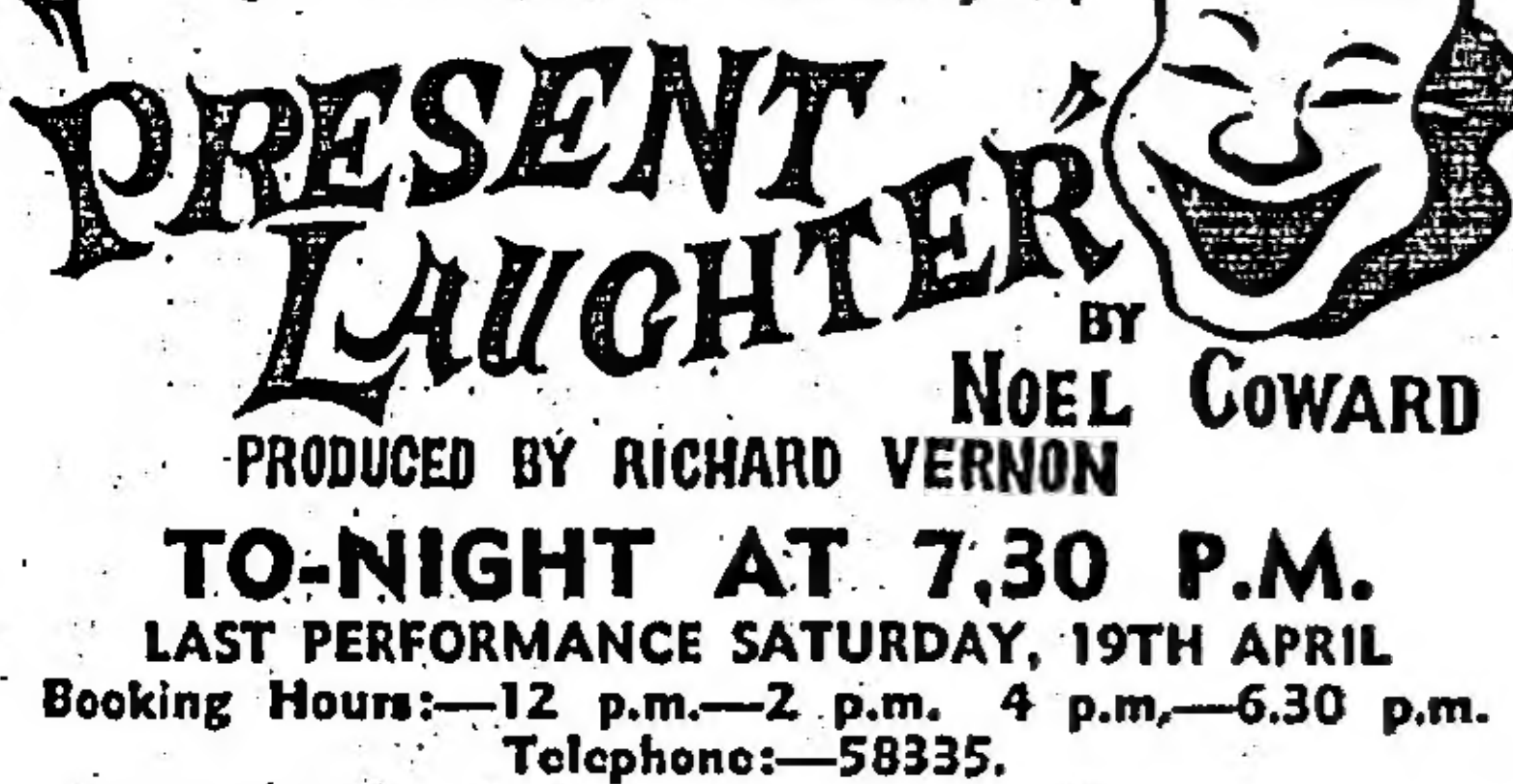
SHOWING TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

★ STAR ★
THEATRE

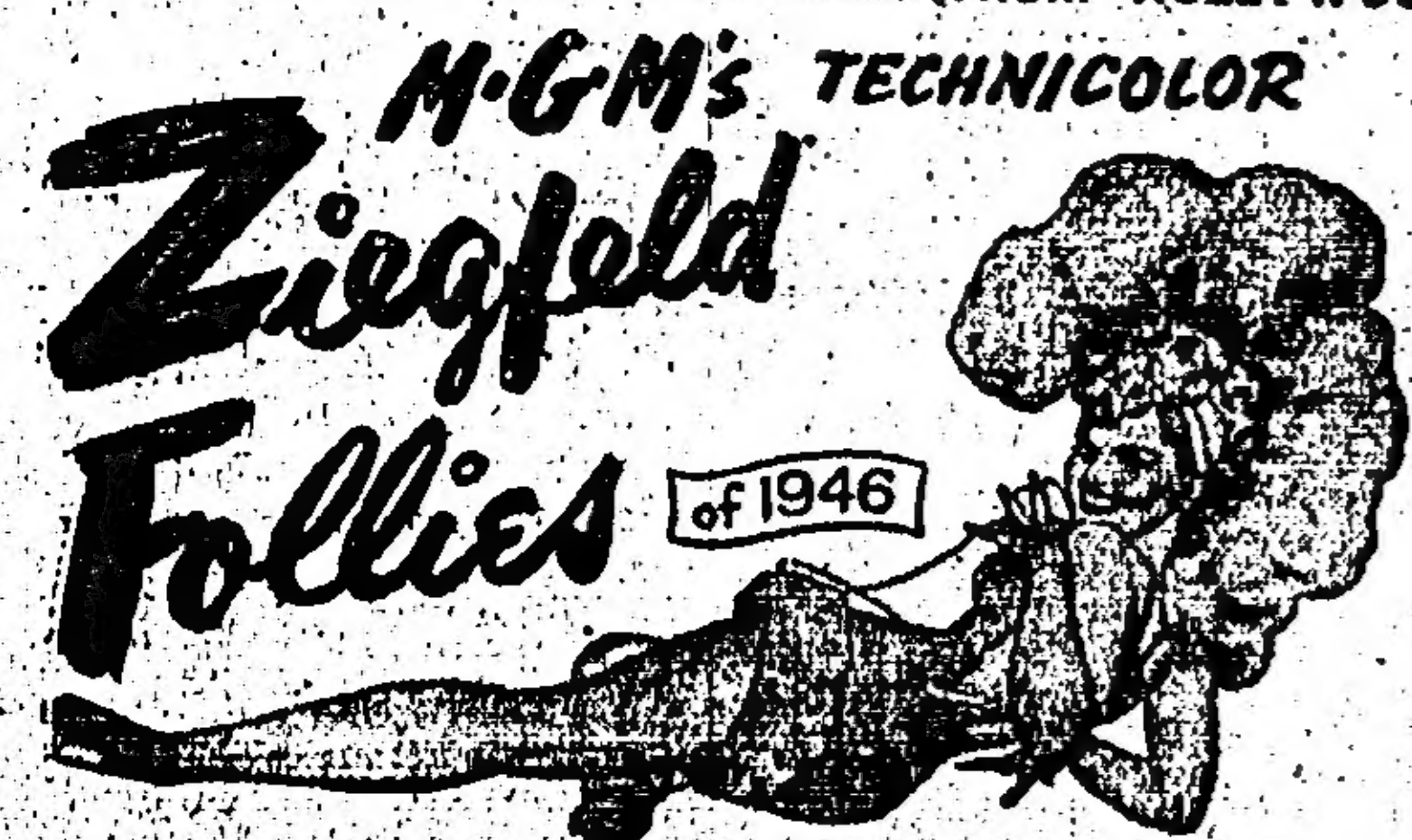
THE HONG KONG STAGE CLUB

Presents

(BY COURTESY OF C.S.E.)



ORIENTAL

COMMENCING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.20—7.20—9.20 P.M.
THE MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCTION SINCE THE BIRTH OF
MOTION PICTURES! MUSIC! MAGIC! LAUGHTER! ROMANCE
—AND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRLS FROM HOLLYWOOD!From an
advertisement
in the
New York PostTHE CONTROVERSY
OVER THE VETO— By —
WICKHAM STEED

Former Editor of The Times (London)

THE President of the United States has been severely criticised for having announced a policy of giving aid to Greece and Turkey without seeking in advance the approval of the United Nations.

Among the most outspoken of his critics is the Soviet delegate to the United Nations Security Council, Mr. Andrei Gromyko, who in a speech to the Council on April 7 declared that the action of the United States had weakened the authority of the United Nations Organisation and had undermined the mutual trust of its members.

On the next day, Senator Vandenberg, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the United States Senate, replied to Mr. Gromyko when opening a debate on the bill to authorise the policy of giving help to Greece and Turkey.

While declaring that the United Nations is "the first reliance and the prime concern" of the United States in dealing with international problems, Senator Vandenberg explained that the bill proposes to do what the United Nations Organisation cannot yet do, and affirmed that it "goes to the heart and core of the veto controversy."

Dilemma

WHATEVER formal validity there may be in criticism of the United States for having bypassed the United Nations by acting without precedent approval from the Security Council, I think that, practically, the criticism ignores the prospect that any application to the Security Council would have been exposed to the Russian veto.

In that event, the United States would have been confronted with a serious dilemma. Had it bowed to a Russian veto, it would have been debilitated from giving help to Greece and Turkey against pressure from quarters favoured by Soviet Russia. Otherwise, it would have been obliged to act in defiance of a negative decision by the Security Council. In those circumstances, the United States Government seems to have preferred to bypass the possibility of a veto.

This supposition is borne out by a further statement in Senator Vandenberg's speech that Russian use of the veto within the Security Council would be certain "in any phase of the conflict between Communism and Democracy." Senator Vandenberg doubtless had in mind both the Russian veto in the case of Albania and Mr. Gromyko's failure to accept the subsequent British resolution that the Security Council should command both parties to the Albanian dispute to submit it to the International Court of Justice.

In any event, Senator Vandenberg's speech amounts to a suggestion that the "veto controversy" cannot be satisfactorily settled without definite curtailment, if not abrogation, of the veto itself.

Disarmament

IN this controversy I do not only discuss the issues now under discussion at the Moscow Conference of Foreign Ministers, but the larger questions of disarmament and of control of atomic energy. Here

again the divergence of view between Soviet Russia and the Western Powers appears to be profound.

Britain and the United States believe that the establishment of a system of collective security against aggression is an indispensable preliminary to international disarmament. Mr. Gromyko, on behalf of Soviet Russia, maintains, on the contrary, that no system of security can come into force until disarmament has been accomplished.

As far as my personal experience goes, efforts to attain international disarmament without adequate provision for collective security are doomed to failure. I think the Russian contention puts the cart before the horse, and is, in effect, inspired by a wish to neutralise the United States' monopoly of atomic weapons before assenting to any system of international security against aggression.

League Failure

IT was upon a similar issue that the League of Nations came to grief. Its Covenant prescribed a rule of unanimity for all major decisions of the League Council; and this rule was utilised to block an effective system of collective security. Consequently, all attempts to secure disarmament failed.

It is true that Article 16 of the Covenant contained one provision that "bypassed" the unanimity rule by declaring that, if any member of the League should resort to war in disregard of the Covenant, that member should "ipso facto" be deemed to have committed an act of war against all other members of the League. The potential efficacy of this provision was realised in 1935 in the case of Italian aggression against Abyssinia, but the unwillingness of the Great Powers to act upon it destroyed the authority of the League.

British View

IN a statement to the Security Council on April 4, the British delegate, Sir Alexander Cadogan, dwelt upon the significance of the veto, or the rule of unanimity among its permanent members, in the life of the United Nations. He pointed out that by insisting on the unanimity of permanent members of the Council, the Soviet Union appeared to mean that other permanent members should conform to its view, even when it was in a minority of one. This, he said, should be remembered when it was said that the principle of unanimity must apply to the enforcement of a system of collective security against a violator of any convention for control of atomic energy or a violator of any other aspect of disarmament.

In other words, full efficacy of the United Nations Organisation appears to be incompatible with the present use of the veto. And it is this situation that lends especial interest to Senator Vandenberg's claim that the United States policy of giving aid to Greece and Turkey "goes to the heart and core of the veto controversy."

For a year I've wanted
to say thisNEW YORK.
FOR nearly a year now I have withheld the urge to write this article.

Often the urge has been almost too great. For during this year there has seldom been a day that I have opened these 50-page New York newspapers without having to read at least one page given to the vilification of Britain and some of the people in it.

Paid advertisements occupy these pages. But not for selling pots and pans. All they have been trying to sell is hatred of Britain.

Why I have been seemingly delinquent in my duty by keeping silent about this virulent campaign of slander, near-lies and insults is that it has been sponsored by the American Zionists.

An exposure in a British newspaper of what they have been saying might easily have prejudiced the delicate negotiations to solve the Palestine problem, and thereby added further hurt to the displaced persons these Zionists fondly imagine they are helping.

Besides, I have felt some confidence that before long some of the Americans—many of them of the Jewish faith—who disapprove of Zionist tactics would speak out against them. If they did not, then presumably the American Government, which, during the pre-war years, frowned on unofficial enlisting of Hitler Germany, would at least give Britain an equal break. They might possibly even repeal a law which makes contributions to this campaign deductible from income tax.

Silence

BUT the Press, no matter whether it has approved the Zionist campaign or not, has, for the most part, kept silence about the advertisements it has been printing.

Worse, one New York newspaper actually suppressed an anti-Zionist speech by its proprietor, a non-Zionist American of Jewish faith. And all, presumably, because the Zionists have managed to intimidate these organs into believing—as they do—that to be anti-Zionist is to be anti-Jewish.

As for the Government, it has stayed silent for reasons best and probably well known to itself. Even now I might possibly not be writing this article if the Palestine problem had not been placed in the hands of the United Nations.

When that happened I confidently expected that even the Zionists would shut up. I thought they might even realise that, with the United Nations just round the corner instead of across the Atlantic, their vicious campaign might prejudice their whole cause. They did not. Today the Zionists are worse than ever.

One could, perhaps, ignore the cheap wisecracks of Walter Winchell (complex: "Britain—was—selling—

Palestinians down the Red Sea when Truman was selling underwear." "No wonder the English are bringing in the Germans to do their work in Britain—they are doing the Germans' work in Palestine.") One could even ignore the sneers of playwright Ben Hecht, who now writes plays in order to charter hellships in which to transport these unfortunates—filled with false hopes and equipped with phony passports—"no sight of the land that only he and his colleagues have promised them."

by

C. V. R. THOMPSON

It is harder—but still possible. I suppose—to stomach a Zionist magazine's practice of calling Britain's Foreign Minister, Mr. Bevin, or a pro-Zionist committee's preference to Mr. Adolf Bevin.

But when these advertisement-page propagandists begin to provoke deliberate bloodshed in an attempt to provide the United Nations with an accomplished fact, it is different. That calls for any Englishman's protest, even an Englishman who is a guest of the city that is their main stronghold.

What they print

I HAVE before me some of the advertisements that have appeared in the New York Press since Mr. Bevin announced that the Palestine problem was going to the United Nations.

There is one from the Political Action Committee for Palestine, Inc. This is an organisation headed by Joseph Clark Baldwin, who recently sent himself on an "impassioned" mission of inquiry to Britain and Palestine.

Their advertisement calls for \$2,500,000 for an Exodus by Air to Palestine. They want the Government to lease them ten fleets of Douglas Skymasters. They have the pilots and "a certain port in Europe" from which four round trips a day could be made to the Holy Land.

Women and children would be landed at makeshift secret fields. Able-bodied men would be dropped by parachute.

Reason for this new method: the attempt to break the British naval blockade has failed, and 25 ships "stand confronted by Mr. Adolf Bevin, who does not like New York Jews."

Worse is the American League for Free Palestine, the most violent of all the Zionist organisations. It is headed by an ex-senator, Mr. Guy Gillette, who, while a senator, opposed war aid to Britain.

Others in top jobs with the organisation are author Louis Bromfield ("The Rain Came"), Ben Hecht, Will Rogers Jun. (son of the cowboy philosopher), Rudy Chatterton, and William B. Ziff, the anti-British author who, as a side-line, is trying to stir up the New York Irish again.

BY THE WAY
by Beachcomber

NO word has reached the earth from the rocket Utopia, so presumably it is still soaring towards the moon. One may discount those strange rumours which any scientific experiment always attracts to itself today.

A Dauphinville herdsman in the Guelph valley reports a "ball of flame upside down" high over the Doigt de Dieu. From Nicaragua comes word of a sausage-shaped meteor plunging into space. Watchers on Corfu saw a series of sparks blown across the sky. A shepherd in the Caucasus heard a whirling sound in the night, but saw nothing. LATER: A radio message from the Utopia says that the rocket is 1,120,000 miles above Utopia, and going sideways.

A proud boast

WHEN one considers the appalling death-rate in the Middle Ages, one realises that a public with a low standard of hygiene, and exposed to unsanitary pictures, ran risks which we have eliminated today. The death-rate among visitors to the Royal Academy is falling year by year, owing largely to the provision of hygienic pictures.

(Mr. Charles Diopalach)

In passing

EVERY time London is given a new statue, the same old row breaks out. Everybody knows better than the sculptor what it should be like, and everybody hates the sculptor's work. I read that the Roosevelt statue "has been foisted on the public," who were not consulted about it. Statues should, of course, be designed by mass meetings, after a Gallup poll. The exquisite taste of the day would then have a chance to express itself.

By the way, put a stone bowl on the head of King Charles in Whitehall, and you will at once realise that modern clothes do not easily lend themselves to the sculptor's art. Nor do modern sculptors.

Super-satellite

PEOPLE who live in what are to become "satellite towns" thought that, when evicted, they might be allowed to live, if possible, in villages near these towns. But the Suet Plan, published today, makes it clear that every satellite town will have, as annexes, a ring of satellite villages to which the privileges of eviction will be extended.

Typical of their line of talk is this—

"You're desperate, Mr. Bevin, your soldiers are shooting down four-year-old girls. Is this the regime you intend for Palestine? The viciousness of your words is in tune with the actions of your occupation army in Palestine. As long as you insist upon deporting Hebrews from their own shores, Palestine to Cyprus, there will be bloodshed. It is 1770 (year of the American Revolution) in Palestine!"

Another advertisement:—"Give us the money... we'll get them there! Do it again and again and again. The ships are ready... the crews are ready... but the passengers are waiting... Now is the time to throw another

punch, the strongest one you can... Save more 'illegal' lives today." In a statement concerning the capture of the a.s. Abriel (which they call the a.s. Ben Hecht) this American League for Free Palestine says:—

"Knowing the British record, we are not surprised that the Ben Hecht has been seized, nor will we be surprised at any cruelty perpetrated by the British upon its passengers or crew. We hereby inform the British that we will keep trying until the Hebrews are in and the British are out."

The Zionist Organisation of America asks for dollars to set up a Hebrew Government in exile. It has to be exile for the moment, say these Zionists, because otherwise, "with planes and tanks and all the paraphernalia of modern warfare, this mighty Britain, which American blood and treasure have helped to preserve, will set upon the brave pioneers."

Another group, who call themselves the United Zionists of America, advertise for a boycott by all the Americans of British goods. This is their line of talks:—

"The British Government conducted a war of extermination on the Jewish people. The British remnants of European Jewry continue to rot in concentration camps. By an unprecedented reign of military terror, they endeavour to turn the Jews of Palestine into generate slaves of a police State. We can prove to the British successors of Hitler's extermination campaign against Jewry that they are wrong. If Americans will refuse to buy British products and refrain from using British services, they will quickly bring Britain to her senses. That is only a brief selection."

Hecklers ready

AND then there are less easily visible campaigns, like the pressure groups in Washington, which work on all the Jewish Congressmen and others if they have strong Jewish colonies within their constituencies, and the pressure groups in New York which stand ready to supply a steady audience to heckle any supporter of the British case in a radio forum. And so on.

Well, what effect are they having? On American Jewry I think they are having considerable effect, although not as considerable as they claim.

But I have noticed in my own contact with Jewish friends that there is now an awkwardness between us. On the other hand, I have often received letters from people I hardly know asking me to believe that many of Jews are ashamed of what the noisy Zionists are saying.

And there stands out in my memory an experience of a visiting Englishman who got toothache. A Jewish dentist took care of him and, when asked for a bill, said: "No charge. You got enough troubles without paying me."

On other Americans I am afraid that the tactics of these militant Zionists are doing their cause—i.e., indeed their cause is to help Jewry—more harm than good.

These Americans, confusing the noisy Zionists with all Jews, are becoming increasingly anti-Semitic. Not openly, but underground. And that is worse.

So my advice to the New York Zionist is this: Try a little honest criticism of Britain for a change. That is your right, and anyone else's, too. If you can't do that, why don't you shut up?

NANCY Quick Results



When You Feel Tired
and Restless
take
Elliott's Nerve
and
Brain Tonic
On Sale at All Dispensaries

Women BEAUTY ARTS

By LOIS LEEDS



Posed by Audrey Young for Lois Leeds.

Work to obtain a better figure. It's not easy but it's worth while.

FOR A BETTER FIGURE!

It is not practical or possible for every woman to go on a diet. If you have professional advice, fine. Then you will diet sensibly, and my blessings on you! But if you just want to lose weight and do not consult a physician, then you should not go on a diet. You must, however, practise Food Control, that's possible and practical.

Eat sensibly—three meals a day and no more. No eating between meals. Eat fresh, green tossed salads instead of a big cup with cream. Never eat until you feel "full," keep just under the well-satisfied feeling. And along with that you'll need a few basic exercises to control hip-spread and your waistline.

Exercise does make you feel better. The best time is the morning before taking your bath or your shower. But your personal routine must determine the right time for you. Just be sure that you are Positive Perfect. You will be one amazed about your figure when you see that nice line had the disappearing derriere does wonders for your morale!

Lie on a mat, face down, with palms of the hands on the mat, close to your shoulders. Now straighten the arms, pushing the body upward.

Bend the elbows and lower body to the mat at the same time raising the legs, slowly. Repeat several times. This causes a rocking motion with the weight on the abdomen. Now turn over on your back and do a sideways twist at the waist. Extend arms fully outward. Bend knees close up to the chest, feet together. In this position, swing legs slowly from side to side. Keep shoulders flat on the mat and twist from the waist.

Back Bending. Sit on a low bench, toes braced under something heavy enough to hold your weight. Clasp hands behind head and stretch upward as far as possible. From that position bend right, then left, as far as possible. Repeat several times.

In same position on bench, stretch arms above the head and bend backwards as far as possible. Then slowly raise yourself back to the sitting position. This last exercise is a little strenuous if you are not used to exercise, so take it easy at first. But it will strengthen abdominal muscles and flatten the abdomen.

Chinese Influence



Chinese inspiration is behind this tightly fitting Susan Small evening dress in heavy black crepe. Slashed at one side from ankle to knee, the dress buttons across one shoulder and down the same side. Flowered material adapts itself elegantly to the model.

Sketch by Virginia.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"No, there are no cookies or leftover cake—your father simply gobbles up everything in sight since he has quit smoking!"

Chinese Student Thought Has Veered To The Left

BY HAROLD MILKS
(Associated Press Nanking Correspondent)

China's students have moved steadily to the left since V-J Day, but not all of them have become supporters of Communism.

Foreign educators who have watched the student movement in China since its inception in Peiping in 1919 believe that the great bulk of this potentially powerful group remains uncommitted to any political creed or group, but is still seeking a cause on which to expend its intelligence and its youthful energy.

Resistance to the Japanese invasion gave China's university and college students a goal—ejection of the foreign aggressors—which spurred them to what these educators called vital contributions to this nation's welfare.

With the coming of peace and the subsequent civil war, however, the majority of these young men and women have become, in the words of one of China's best known experts on education, "both disgusted and confused."

They remain today an almost untapped source of support and power for the right "cause"—whether it be a new effort of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek to bring national unity to China, or the drive of the Chinese Communist Party for overthrow of the government through force of arms.

Their Influence

More than 50,000 in number, from approximately 125 universities and colleges, China's students exerted considerable influence on past developments.

Educators recall the beginning of the student movement in Peiping.

LANCASHIRE NEWSLETTER

By "Lancastrian"

The Manchester Regiment is looking for a home. At present it is stationed at Dunham Park, Altrincham, Cheshire, but the local council wants Dunham Park to be part of the "green belt" and opposes its use as a permanent military site.

Li-Col. P. W. Buchan, Officer Commanding, states that scouts from the regiment and from Northern District Headquarters are constantly on the look-out for suitable places, but general shortage of building materials for the construction of a new camp make the possibility of an early move unlikely.

"We want to be reasonably near town to allow of recreational facilities," said the Col. "and at the same time we must have access to open spaces. Because of our association with Manchester, the regiment cannot move very far afield."

One Manchester street hawker has been sent to prison for three months after pleading guilty to being an unlicensed hawker and attempting to sell oranges at a price exceeding the maximum.

After hearing that the man had a long list of previous convictions for similar offences over the past two years, the Stipendiary Magistrate said: "Heavy fines inflicted on you in the past do not appear to have deterred you from profiteering at the expense of the public."

A man who pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting the first man was fined £30. Another who pleaded guilty to 200 per cent overcharge for oranges was fined £9.

The Working Shift

Twenty years ago a good working shift would last more than 12 months. Today the same shift does well if it lasts six months. Bolton and District Operative Cotton Spinners' Association, in their annual report, instance this as an argument against replacing spinning mules by ring frames in modernising cotton mills.

"We have seen far too many good mules thrown through the window to make room for rings," says the report.

"So far as ring yarns are concerned, and in spite of what Shirley Institute or interested textile machinists may say, there is no comparison with mule yarns. Ring yarns have not the same elasticity as mule yarns and consequently cannot stand repeated washings the same as the old mule yarns."

Architect At Premium

Architects, surveyors and technicians for housing schemes are at a premium at present. The Government and various local authorities are falling over each other to get them. Men out of the forces, re-starting at £350 per annum, get £1,100 increase to which they would have been entitled if their war service had not intervened and then become eligible for £550 per annum and leave, according to Sir Lancelot Lay, Liverpool housing director.

"Technicians," he says, "would do more good with local authorities, but instead are attracted from productive jobs to supervisory work in Government departments. Advertisements are appearing offering architects £750, a house, and a car."

Wrestling contests in the Fleetwood Corporation Marine Pavilion have brought protests from the port's teachers' association who ask that children of school age even if accompanied by parents, should not be admitted. The teachers say that the scholars practise the grips and strangleholds in the pavilion, use on other children, and that this might lead to injuries.

Alderman C. Sner, an ex-headmaster, does not agree. He says that scholars have to rough it in the playground and it does them good. Whether they practise the tricks of wrestlers or not, they would try their own ideas of wrestling on each other.

when university youths were the first to recognise the menace of Japanese infiltration through bribery of high officials.

One of the first student acts was the attack on the homes of three powerful government officials known to have accepted bribes from Japanese agents for certain "special privileges" in North China. Under the assault of enraged students from the old capital's colleges, these officials fled to the Leration Quarter for refuge while well-organised groups of students wrecked and burned their homes.

This public protest at "selling out China" was to be repeated many times in many regions before open warfare with Japan gave the university and college men and women their place in the war resistance.

Changes By Force

Educators describe the average Chinese university man of today as one whose political beliefs are well to the left, usually opposed to the Kuomintang, but not always in favour of the Communists. Usually this man blames the present government leadership for failure to complete the revolution of Dr Sun Yat-sen. He sees a need for political revolution within China.

"Overthrow" has become a well-known and favourite word through constant usage—Dr Sun Yat-sen overthrew the monarchy; Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek overthrew warlords; China overthrew the Japanese.

Changes of government by force are an accepted part of the average student's thinking. — Associated Press.

SHANGHAI ROTARY CONFERENCE

Measures of far-reaching importance, designed to rejuvenate Rotary clubs in China and to push the rotary movement deep into the Chinese community, are being discussed in Shanghai by the 97th District Conference of the Rotary International in Shanghai.

Various resolutions have been made by the delegates regarding the nomination of a new District Governor, re-districting of clubs in China, extension of Rotary in District 97, the Fourth Object of Rotary, and the popularisation of Rotary among the younger generation and among the Chinese community.

Rotarian W. H. Tan was elected new District Governor nominee for the coming Rotary year to succeed Dr C. C. Wu, an honorary Rotarian, the present District Governor. This nomination will be confirmed by the Rotary International Convention to be held in San Francisco in June this year.

Preceding the official opening at the conference in Shanghai on April 16 were a cocktail party given by Mayor K. C. Wu, an honorary Rotarian, and a buffet dinner, both held at the American Club, where more than 100 Rotarians, Rotary Annas, and guests attended.

In his welcoming address Mayor Wu extolled the Rotary spirit, which he said would achieve the federation of the world. "The Rotary motto, 'service above all,' the Mayor pointed out, 'is dignified, simple and true.'"

Shanghai Creeks To Be Dredged

More than 600 workers have been hired by the Shanghai Public Works Bureau to participate in a mammoth, unprecedented dredging project.

Various creeks in the suburban areas are to be dredged, and at least 23,000 cubic metres of silt will be removed at the end of this month, reports Reuter.

Rupert & the New Pal—32



Rupert and Bill and the black cat look around for butterflies, but there seems to be nothing on the high ground except very rough grass and occasional gorse bushes. "Butterflies generally grow in meadows," says Rupert. "Let's go down to a farm." "There's a field that had masses of them in the early summer near here at the edge of the village," declares Bill. "I will try that first." So, putting George back on his trolley, they carefully follow Bill to the field and gaze over the fence. "I can't see any," says the cat.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

DUMB BELLS



Cartoons To Teach Japs Democracy

Baffled by the Japanese people's inability to comprehend that their votes now will run the country, General Douglas MacArthur's government experts are trying to explain it with cartoons.

Allied artists have cut Emperor Hirohito down to a new size, ex-plaited women's rights, wiped out the men who whispered advice from behind the throne and plunked the factory owner down at the bargaining table with his workers.

These coloured posters—they are as simple as a child's picture book—will be displayed throughout the four big home islands in an effort to explain to the people that from now on it is their duty to take advantage of all the rights democracy and a new constitution have brought them.

Hope They'll Understand

Americans charged with reshaping Japan's government wipe fevered brows and hope the people will understand what it is all about. They hope that at least the basic ideas will sink in, so the nation's 70,000,000 will know what they are celebrating on May 3 when the new constitution takes effect.

At a press conference the other day, Japanese newsmen listened dully as the constitution, fair elections and political systems were explained. But when the cartoons were trotted out they came to life and chuckled and giggled appreciatively as their rights were explained in picture. SCAP men hope it will be the same everywhere in the country.—Associated Press.

TO REVIVE PHILIPPINE FISHERIES

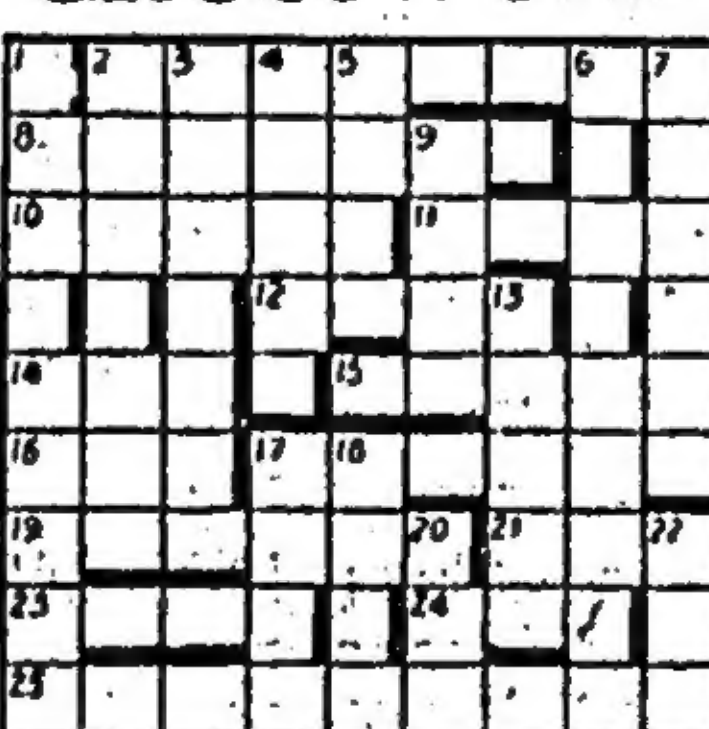
A scientific expedition will sail from San Francisco in May on a three year task to revive and modernise the war wrecked Philippines fisheries industry. More than a score of leading scientists, headed by Hugh W. Terhune, are due to leave in two special vessels for exploratory work in waters around and adjacent to the islands.

Terhune was wartime co-ordinator of Fisheries and halibut allocation officer at Seattle.

The ambitious programme to build up the Philippines' second largest industry is a part of the Philippines Rehabilitation Act created by the Tyding's bill.

The island fisheries now employ some 600,000 workers.—Associated Press.

CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 and 7. Not stars of the past but a legal right. (7, 6)
 8. It may be a sour one. (7)
 9. From a tube lower down. (5)
 11. An artificial scent for hounds. (5)
 12. How a safe appears to her without stockings. (4)
 14. Unkind kingdom. (5)
 15. Street for the press gang? (8)
 16. Brandy the hook. (3)
 17. Warbles. (5) 18. Lover. (5)
 21. Something a bride likes to wear. (5)
 23. Sometimes follows the degree. (4)
 24. As this you will report. (5)
 25. School that is obviously not first. (4)
- Down
1. They have taken many a crest to the front. (9)
 2. It may mean one said. (7)
 3. Genre of water lilies. (7)
 4. One of a kind of blackbird does? (5) 5. United States. (4)
 6. Funny, but his line may be also. (5)
 7. How you may land a freethrob. (5)
 13. He's no good! (5)
 17. May be responsible for a riot. (4)
 18. A letter. (3)
 20. Pile or perch? (3)
 22. This light is before the dusk. (3)

Solution of yesterday's puzzle.—Across 1 and 7. Stars of the past and a legal right. 8. Sour one. 9. From a tube lower down. 11. Artificial scent for hounds. 12. How a safe appears to her without stockings. 14. Unkind kingdom. 15. Street for the press gang. 16. Brandy the hook. 17. Warbles. 18. Lover. 21. Something a bride likes to wear. 23. Sometimes follows the degree. 24. As this you will report. 25. School that is obviously not first. Down 1. They have taken many a crest to the front. 2. It may mean one said. 3. Genre of water lilies. 4. One of a kind of blackbird does. 5. United States. 6. Funny, but his line may be also. 7. How you may land a freethrob. 13. He's no good. 17. May be responsible for a riot. 18. A letter. 20. Pile or perch. 22. This light is before the dusk.

KING'S GRAND OPENING TO-DAY

SPECIAL TIME: 2.00, 4.30, 7.00 & 9.30 P.M.
GANGWAY! FOR M-G-M's BIGGEST MUSICAL ROMANCE!



On Waves of Love and Laughter! With Stars and Songs and Dances!

FRANK SINATRA
KATHRYN GRAYSON
GENE KELLY
ANCHORS AWEIGH
6 SMASH SONGS, including the Hit Parade favorite, "My Heart Sings"

AN M-G-M PICTURE with JOSE ITURBI
and DEAN PAMELA "RABBIT" DILLY HENRY STOCKWELL BRITTON RAGLAND GILBERT O'NEILL
PLEASE BOOK YOUR SEATS IN ADVANCE

SUNDAY AT 11.30 A.M. ONLY
IRVING BERLIN'S "HOLIDAY INN"
Starring Bing Crosby — Fred Astaire
A PARAMOUNT PICTURE — AT REDUCED PRICES

CENTRAL & ALHAMBRA
DAILY AT 2.00 5.00 7.00 & 9.00 P.M. DAILY AT 2.00 5.00 7.00 & 9.00 P.M.
CENTRAL: Extra Performance at 12.30 P.M.

SHOWING TO-DAY



Belgian, Czech, Greek, Pole and all the heroic rest avenging the fate of their conquered countries... living the fastest thrills on earth—in the air!



Warner Bros. Hit starring RONALD REAGAN
at his reckless, romantic best!
OLYMPIE BRADEN - WILLIAM LUNDIGAN
JOAN PERRY - REGINALD DENNY
Directed by LEWIS SEILER

"PLEDGE TO BATAAN"

IN: TECHNICOLOR

Enough Cause To Go On Wagon

Seamen aboard the ship Single Hiltch almost swore off the stuff when they saw live snakes slithering over the deck of their ship. The 14 baby boa constrictors kept the crew wide-eyed as they crawled about in search of dark, warm places. The 20-inch youngsters were the offspring of 80 huge boa constrictors being shipped to Houston, Texas, from Barranquilla, Colombia. The baby snakes escaped through niches in the 12 cases aboard the ship. The young snakes were harmless, but when they are grown to their full size of 25 to 30 feet, they will be able to squeeze the life out of man or animal.

Queen Elizabeth Not Damaged

Southampton, Apr. 17. Divers inspecting the hull of the Queen Elizabeth said in a preliminary report today that they found only superficial damage to the world's greatest passenger liner from her mishap in grounding at the entrance to Southampton water earlier this week.

Two divers working throughout the day reported that the 85,000-ton liner had only damaged the paintwork on her bottom.

The Queen Elizabeth is expected to sail again for New York on Saturday.—United Press.

No Crisis, Ramadier Declares

Paris, Apr. 17. Premier Paul Ramadier today repudiated reports of an impending governmental crisis and flayed the attempts of General Charles de Gaulle to arouse the French people against the alleged inefficiency of the Fourth Republic's constitution.

Most morning newspapers forecast the possibility of a rupture in the Ramadier coalition government as the result of the attitude of the Communists during discussion of the rebellion in Madagascar at yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

Afterwards, the Communists did not attend the dinner in honour of the former Socialist Premier, M. Leon Blum.

M. Ramadier told newsmen at his regular press conference this afternoon that there had not been a rupture of ministerial solidarity at the Cabinet meeting, and that the Communist Ministers had previously excused themselves from the Blum dinner in order to attend a Party meeting.

Not Mentioned By Name

Although he refrained from mentioning General de Gaulle by name, M. Ramadier was obviously referring to the General's attempt to rouse French national opinion against weakness in the constitution and party system when he declared: "No one has the right to render ineffective the national discipline imposed over and above the doctrines of parties. The necessity for this national discipline is imposed by, and it is tied to, ideas of liberty and of the Republic. He who repudiates national discipline and patrimony places himself outside the French community. He who imprudently issues watchwords against national discipline must be placed on guard against himself, and we must place public opinion on guard against him."—United Press.

RAF ORDNANCE DEPOT BLAZE

Lahore, Apr. 17. A big fire broke out this afternoon in the Royal Air Force Ordnance Depot at Harbanspura, a few miles from Lahore.

Three sheds of the 300th RAF Unit, containing parachutes, petrol, lubricants and other stores were completely destroyed. No loss of life was reported.

Huge columns of smoke were visible for miles around. Losses are unofficially estimated at £1,500,000.

Eleven fire brigades localised the fire after five hours.—Reuters.

OPENING SUNDAY AT THE QUEEN'S



SUNDAY MORNING at 11.30 A.M.

Yvonne de CARLO

"SALOME, WHERE SHE DANCED"

IN TECHNICOLOR

with Rod CAMERON

AT REDUCED PRICES!

Italy's Septuagenarian Foreign Minister Struck By Angry Mob

Rome, Apr. 17. Seventy-four-year-old Foreign Minister Count Carlo Sforza was dragged from his motor car and pummeled by angry youths staging a demonstration in front of Parliament building this morning.

Several thousand unemployed stormed through Rome's large Piazza Colonna, then marched to Montecitorio, halting buses and automobiles and forcing passengers to get out.

BARUCH ON AMERICAN INFLATION

Columbia, S. Carolina, Apr. 17.

Bernard M. Baruch, one of the outstanding American elder statesmen, declared today: "We are on the brink of an engulfing inflation. There is only one way out. That is by work."

Addressing the South Carolina State Legislature, Baruch asserted that the more we produce the less will be the cost of living; the more things we can buy the easier will be the building up of our reserves.

"Physically, financially, spiritually, too, we shall be free of worry—absence of which is a sense of security," he declared. "We are in the midst of a war. Our enemies are to be found abroad and at home. Let us never forget this:

"Our unrest is the heart of their success. Peace of the world is the hope and goal of our political system; it is the despair and defeat of those who stand against us."

44-Hour Work-Week

He added that if America would adopt a five and half day 44-hour work-week for the workers, with no strikes or layoffs until January 1, 1949, "the result would be electrifying. Production would flow smoothly. A sense of security would return to the worker and employer and reaction upon the economy of the world would be deep and lasting."

"Until we have unity, until we straighten out and solve our problems of production and have internal stability, there is no basis on which the world can renew itself physically or spiritually. Upon this change in our material outlook there would follow a change in our sense of security. Make no mistake: Our military lines are no stronger than industry behind them. Unless we work we shall not be able to maintain our claim to power. That would be the greatest blow we could receive, for it would strip us of our strength to preserve our way of life."—Associated Press.

King Christian's Strength Declines

Copenhagen, Apr. 17. The strength of King Christian of Denmark slightly declined during the day. It was officially stated here tonight.

"During the day the King had more coughing, but his condition was otherwise unchanged," the official bulletin added. "His temperature was 38.7 Centigrade and his pulse 90. His breathing was 50."—Reuters.

"Absolute Nonsense"

Aboard the Royal Train, South Rhodesia, Apr. 18. The highest source in the British Royal household today termed "absolute nonsense" a report from Ottawa that the engagement of Princess Elizabeth will be announced Monday on her 21st birthday.

"There will be no such announcement," the informants said. The British royal family is touring South Africa.—Associated Press.

Flower Day To-morrow



to aid Hongkong's Needy Children

The Hongkong Society for the Protection of Children

Thanks You

When they passed the Palazzo Chigi, housing the Foreign Office, Count Sforza's car was just leaving for a short drive to Parliament. The crowd surged around the car, and when it stopped the dignified elder statesman stepped out to be met by angry shouts. Several youths who immediately surrounded him hit the Foreign Minister on the top of the head three or four times.

Count Sforza, apparently unhurt, removed his battered black felt hat and was, it seemed, immediately recognised by other demonstrators who cleared a path as the Minister, his face white with anger, stalked off toward Parliament.

Workers recently discharged from minor government and public relief jobs and at present receiving a dole of 100 lire per day protested that they were unable to live or provide for families with that sum.

Mobile police squads in jeeps began dispersing the crowd by racing down the sidewalks of the two-block area, forcing the demonstrators to flee for safety.—United Press.

De Gasperi's Deal

Rome, Apr. 17. Italy's strange political union of Communists, Left Wing Socialists and Christian Democrats revived Rightist charges today that Premier Alcide De Gasperi was holding his government together through an under-the-table deal with Communist leader Palmiro Togliatti.

In this odd situation, where the Communist leader has demonstrated that he can always control the balance of power in the Assembly, Premier De Gasperi announced he would leave tomorrow for Sicily for an all-out fight to break the Leftist political drive for power in the island's first elections under regional autonomy on Sunday.

Sicily, being watched closely by political observers, who are beginning to believe that "as goes Sicily, so goes the nation in the next elections," is the wide open battleground where the Christian Democrats intend to yield an inch to the Socialist-Communist bloc in the violent pre-election campaign.

Political Corruption

The lack of Leftist opposition in the Assembly to the Christian Democrats has increased speculation that Premier De Gasperi and Communist Togliatti have arranged a compromise for Assembly discussions preceding the new Republic's second general elections late this year. It is rumoured that Premier De Gasperi has agreed not to force through the referendum on the new constitution opposed by the Leftists if the Communists and their Socialist followers, led by Signor Pietro Nenni, give up their obstructive tactics in Parliament on other questions.

Signor Giuseppe Saragat, head of the Right Wing Socialists, bitterly denounced the "political corruption of the three parties" in reviewing last night's action when the tripartite bloc slaved off a vote of non-confidence and non-approval of the motion clearing two ministers of fraud charges.

Signor Guglielmo Giannini, leader of the Uomo Qualunquiste, said: "After having destroyed the liberty of the press, the Christian Democrats and Communists have gone together to absolve their ministers."

Signor Giannini linked the general elections with De Gasperi's shrewd political manoeuvre in the vote clearing the ministers, but added: "Only one fact will count with the electors—to have clean hands."—United Press.

VACATION FOR ARTISTS

You may get a six-months paid vacation in Slovakia today if you are an artist, writer, or scientist in the government civil service.

The Slovak Cabinet approved a regulation recently granting vacations up to six months for workers in those categories who can convince the authorities that their pet projects—private as well as government—are hampered by daily punching of the time-clock.—United Press.

Chinese Soldiers Entertain

Thirty-five Chinese soldiers cooked and served dinner to 125 members of the Presbyterian Church in Brookmington, Illinois, in appreciation of the Church members' hospitality.

A month ago, young married people of the church had the Chinese soldiers as dinner guests. Returning the compliment, the Chinese served 50 pounds of beef, 20 dozen eggs, dried shrimp, Chinese sauces, herbs and other food.

The soldiers are receiving special air force training at a nearby airfield.—Associated Press.

POCKET CARTOON by OSBERT LANCASTER



Bomb Inquiry Leads Police To Paris

London, Apr. 17. The Chief Inspector of the Special Branch at Scotland Yard, Inspector W. Jones, today flew to France to make inquiries into the discovery of the bomb yesterday at the Colonial Office in London.

It was a similar bomb which caused the explosion some months ago at the British Embassy in Rome. The man who made it is believed to be a Central European.

Inquiries today spread not only to France but to Holland and Palestine.

The woman who planted the bomb, on the pretext that she wished to go to the ladies' room at Dover House to fix a ladder in her stocking, is believed to be a French Jewess who arrived in Britain on April 10. She is thought to have landed on instructions of Jewish agents.—Reuters.

Associated Press adds that the woman is between 25 and 30 years of age, is of medium height, has a fair complexion and dark fluffy hair.—Associated Press.

Wallace Lauds Labour Govt.

London, Apr. 17.

Henry A. Wallace, former United States Vice-President, said today that Britain's Labour Government had "a moral and spiritual strength fully equal to that of the Roosevelt Cabinet in the early days of the new deal."

Summing up his British impressions at a final press conference before starting a flying tour of Scandinavia and France, Wallace said his only regret was that he was unable to get a more nearly complete picture of the Conservative viewpoint.

He declared he hoped to meet representatives of all parties in Scandinavia and France because "I feel my trip cannot be of real service to the ideal of a world united for peace" without such contacts.

He declined to make what he termed "a definitive statement" on Latin America-United States relations, but described President Juan Peron of Argentina as "one of the most skilled dictators" of the last 20 years.—Associated Press.

CABINET CHANGES ANNOUNCED

(Continued From Page 1)

"When I asked you a few months ago to be allowed to reduce your responsibilities, I asked you to carry on for a time. Now, I feel more than ever convinced that the increasingly heavy responsibilities falling upon the holder of my office, and in particular the framing and piloting through Parliament of legislation that will be necessary to effect the transfer of power in India and Burma, require to be undertaken by a younger man, and the sooner he is in the saddle the better.

In his reply, Mr. Attlee said: "You have done great service during the past 20 months and have carried a burden of responsibility which might well have been too heavy for a much younger man. I greatly admire your courage in going out to India last summer and the endurance and skill you showed in your difficult task."

POSITION UNAFFECTED

It is understood that Greenwood's transfer from one sinecure office to another will not affect his position or responsibilities, which will continue without change.

Alteration of his office was necessary to conform with the Ministers of the Crown Act of 1937—under which there are certain limitations to the number of Ministers who can sit in the House of Commons.

Since October 1945 the Control Office for Germany and Austria has been linked more closely with the Foreign Office than with any other Department. The existing Control Office staff will be retained and will stay in their present offices.

The Permanent Secretary of the Control Office will become additional Permanent Under-Secretary of State to the Foreign Office. One of the Junior Ministers at the Foreign Office will answer for the Control Office in the House of Commons except when any big questions arise, when Mr. Bevin or Mr. Hector McNair, Minister of State, will take over.—Reuters.

Wants War Bill From Egypt, India Cut Down

London, Apr. 17. Opening the third and final day's debate on the budget in the House of Commons today, Mr. Brendan Bracken (Conservative), former Minister of Information, criticised the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Hugh Dalton, for not taking a stronger line against the unfair demands made upon us by creditor nations whom we saved from destruction or pillage by Germany, Italy or Japan.

Apart from "violent verbiage," what had the Chancellor done to cut down the demands made by countries like India and Egypt, he asked.

He continued: "Nearly two years have passed without a settlement. Our war debts to those countries are not commercial debts. They are, in fact, examples of some of the worst book-keeping in history."

LISBON WILL BE 800 YEARS OLD

Lisbon, Apr. 17. Lisbon will be 800 years old on October 25, and in celebration the city authorities are preparing a series of celebrations, fiestas, musical fetes and competitions to begin in May and run through to October.

In addition to commemorating the founding of the great city, recognition of its conquest by Arabs, also eight centuries ago, will form a considerable part of the octocentenary.

A contest for the best plan to modernise this traditional crossroads between east and west will be held. But the events will not be too serious.

A glittering night festa on the River Tagus, world championship hockey matches, a football game between Portugal and England, an international horse race, an international yachting race between Spain and Portugal, athletic competitions between Spain and Portugal and Belgium and Portugal, a gymnastic tourney including a team from Sweden, and an international motor car race, will also be featured.

Besides sports, there will be special theatre performances and motion picture showings, and music halls, opera, ballet and other entertainment will make special attempts to entertain the expected swarm of tourists and visitors.

Rebuilt After Earthquake

Special feature movies will include one on the life of Marquis de Pombal, who rebuilt Lisbon after a tremendous earthquake destroyed most of it in 1755.

The celebration will be formally opened at the Castle of St. George, dominating the centre of Lisbon. At this Castle, the Portuguese, aided by French and English troops en route for Palestine on one of the perennial crusades, drove the Arabs from the city in 1147.

A commercial and industrial fair will be opened about the same time. Delegations from provinces the length of Portugal will attend in regional dress to help open the mammoth programme.

Special attempts are being made by the authorities to provide accommodation for the expected tourists in pensions, hotels and private houses.

Two types of gold coins will be struck in commemoration.—United Press.

OUTWARD MAILS

Unless otherwise stated, Registered Air Mail and Parcel Posts close 30 minutes earlier than the time stated below:

Friday, April 18

Shanghai (Sea) 2 p.m.
Haliphong (Sea) 2 p.m.
Peking (Sea) 2 p.m.
Kobe (Sea) 2 p.m.
Canton (Sea) 3 p.m.
Canton (Train) 4 p.m.
Bangkok, Rangoon, Calcutta, Karachi, Basra, Cairo, Johannesburg, Mauritius, London, New York, Canada (Air) 3:30 p.m.
Saigon, Paris (Air) 3:30 p.m.
Canton, Hoihow, Kuning, Amoy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin, Peking, Chungking (Air) 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 19

Manila (Sea) 10 a.m.
Shanghai (Sea) 10 a.m.
Shanghai (Sea) 3 p.m.
Amoy (Sea) 3 p.m.
Manila (Sea) 3 p.m.
Straits, Egypt (Sea) 3 p.m.
Macao, Tientsin, Shekhi (Sea) 4 p.m.
Canton (Train) 4 p.m.
Bangkok, Singapore, Colombo, Sourabaya, Sydney, Auckland (Air) 3:30 p.m.
Saigon, Rangoon, Calcutta, Delhi, Johannesburg, Cairo (Air) 3:30 p.m.
Canton, Kweilin, Chungking (Air) 3:30 p.m.

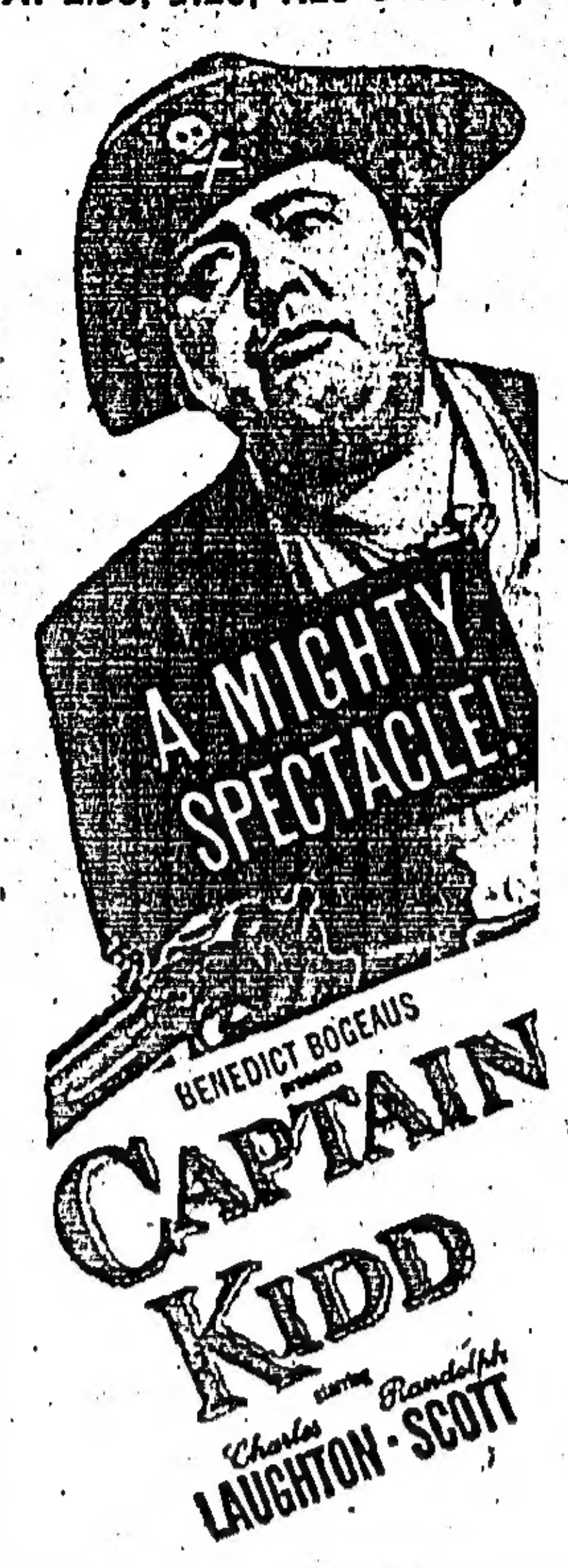
Sunday, April 20

Shanghai, Peking (Air) 10 a.m.
Canton (Sea) 3:30 a.m.
Canton (Train) 4 a.m.
Kobe (Sea) 10 a.m.
Macao, Tientsin and Shekhi (Sea) 10 a.m.
Tientsin (Kwongchowwan) (Sea) 10 a.m.

Printed and published by Frederick Percy Franklin for and on behalf of South China Morning Post Limited at 1-3 Wyndham Street, City of Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong.

MAJESTIC

— SHOWING TO-DAY —
At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.



NEXT CHANGE

"SISTER KENNY"

TODAY'S BROADCAST

ZHW Hongkong broadcasting on a frequency of 845 kilocycles from 12.30 to 2 p.m. and on 11 p.m. and also on 9.52 megacycles in the 31 metre band from 12.30 to 1.15, 6.30 to 7.30 and 9 to 11 p.m.

6.30, Film Memories; 7, Studio; "You Asked For It" Variety; Request Programme arranged by Nicki Lorraine; 8, London Relay; World News; 8.10, London Relay; Home News from Britain; 8.15, Studio; Wanted; "For Murder and Robbery"—A Talk by Dr. A. Graham-Cumming, Senior Health Officer; 8.20, London Transcription Service; "Servants to the Stars"; 8.35, "Beautiful Hawaii"—Hawaiian Songs and Music; 8.55, Dance Music; 9.15, London Transcription Service; "Science Make The Grade"; "Radar"; Narrator: Anthony MacDonnell; 9.30, "Marilyn Moments"; 10, London Relay; News; 10, Studio; "In Europe Today"; Talk by Bernard Newman, Author, Lecturer, Traveller and Commentator; 10.30, Verdi's "La Traviata"—Act 1; Principal Chorus and Orchestra from La Scala Opera House, Milan, 11, Close down.

Rose's square-cut diamond ring...

She's Engaged!

Rose says, "I just love Pond's Cold Cream!"

Dreamy eyes, smooth complexion, and soft," she says. Wipes off clean. Every morning and every night give your face this Pond's beauty care. You'll see why engaged girls like Rose and society beauties like Mrs. Alister McCormick choose Pond's Cold Cream.

She smooths Pond's over face, throat. Pats to soften and release dirt, make-up. Wipes off clean. She rinses with more Pond's Cold Cream, whisking her fingers in little circles, "to get my face extra clean."

She's Lovely! She uses Pond's!

CATHAY

— GRAND OPENING TO-DAY —
At 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m.

"ONE OF THIS YEAR'S 'THE BEST'"

AIR FORCE

WARNER HIT!

Don't miss it!

with John GARFIELD • Harry CAREY